

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner has required restriction in the above-identified application as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-12 and 44-49, drawn to a method of diagnosing and monitoring the progression of a[n] vascular disease, with the special technical feature measuring antibodies against an oxidatively damaged lipoprotein and correlating the amount of the antibodies with the severity of the vascular diseases.
- Group II: Claims 13-22 and 30-40, drawn to a method of monitoring the progression of vascular disease treatment in a living subject, with special technical feature of measuring the lipid oxidation products in blood and correlating the amount of the lipid oxidation products with the success or failures of the vascular treatment.
- Group III: Claims 23-29, drawn to a method of monitoring the degree of oxidative stress in a living subject, with special technical feature of measuring the lipid oxidation products in blood and correlating the amount of the lipid oxidation products with the degree with oxidative stress.
- Group IV: Claims 41-43, drawn to a method of monitoring the degree of endothelial inflammation in a living subject, with special technical feature of measuring the lipid oxidation products in blood and correlating the amount of the lipid oxidation products with the degree of endothelial inflammation.

Group V: Claims 50-52, drawn to a method of diagnosing and monitoring of a cardiovascular disease in a living subject, with special technical feature of measuring the lipid oxidation products in blood and correlating the amount of the lipid oxidation products with the severity of the cardiovascular disease.

Group VI: Claims 53-63, drawn to a method of determining the state of endothelial dysfunction in a living subject, with special technical feature of measuring the lipid oxidation products in blood and endogenous circulating antibodies against the oxidatively damaged lipoprotein and correlating the amounts of the lipid oxidation products and the antibodies with the state of endothelial dysfunction.

For the purpose of examination of this application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-12 and 44-49, for further prosecution at this time. The basis for Applicants' traversal is that there is no undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicants therefore respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

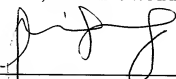
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for examination on the merits. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any suggestions to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Ping Wang, M.D. (Reg. No. 48,328) at 202.842.0217.

Respectfully submitted,

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